

Alan Chinn, P.E.

Alan Chinn is Acting Water Resources Manager and a Senior Civil Engineer in the Water Management Office at Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in Seattle, Washington. He has held the latter position for the last 12 years. Mr. Chinn has extensive work experience and expertise in hydrology, river and reservoir operations for the South Fork Tolt and Cedar Rivers, basin planning, flood management, and watershed and water system computer simulation modeling coupled with a strong interest in weather forecasting technology and atmospheric sciences. As Water Resource Manager, he leads a team of water resource engineers and fish biologists that manage and operate the water supply system to provide drinking water supply for 1.3 million people, habitat protection for multiple fish species and flood protection for downstream property. Since the mid-1990's, Mr. Chinn has been SPU's technical lead on climate change, working closely with researchers and scientists, including those from University of Washington, to study climate change and the potential impacts to water resources in Washington State. In 1998 he co-authored a paper entitled "Managing Seattle's Water Supply in the Face of Uncertainty" for an American Water Works Association conference. He also collaborated with researchers from the National Center for Atmospheric Research on a soon to be published book that will serve as a primer on climate change and water resources for municipal water providers. The book will include a case study on how SPU is planning for and managing its water supply in step with a changing climate. During the winter of 2005, Mr. Chinn successfully led his team through a challenging water year by using management and operational techniques that resulted in achieving normal water supply conditions at the beginning of the summer demand season despite Seattle's watersheds experiencing one of the driest winters and lowest snow pack levels in the last 60 years. Alan is a native of Seattle and has enjoyed over 27 years working with the City of Seattle and serving the public.